

From: vladimir@leonora.org@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 8:12am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Sirs,

I oppose the proposed settlement because it will not be effective in preventing Microsoft from the behavior deemed illegal by the Court of Appeals. Microsoft will merely stop their current practices and take up new ones which have the same effect.

The only remedies that will be effective are those that prevent Microsoft from engaging in the tactic known as "Embrace and Extend".[1] I think the remedies proposed by the Free Software Foundation[2] would prevent Microsoft from engaging in "Embrace and Extend" and would enable competitors to compete technically with Microsoft, while not preventing Microsoft from innovating. These remedies are:

1. Require Microsoft to publish complete documentation of all interfaces between software components, all communications protocols, and all file formats.
2. Require Microsoft to use its patents for defense only, in the field of software.
3. Require Microsoft not to certify any hardware as working with Microsoft software, unless the hardware's complete specifications have been published.

Thank you.

--- Vladimir

I am a U.S. citizen.

[1] Microsoft is well known for its "embrace and extend" strategy, in which it adds elements to popular technologies to bind users to its version of the technologies.

-- http://www.salon.com/tech/log/2000/05/11/slashdot_censor/

[2] <http://www.gnu.org/philosophy/microsoft-antitrust.html>

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